



Mississippi State Senate

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SENATOR JOHN A. HORHN

26th District
Hinds-Madison Counties
P. O. Box 2030, Jackson, MS 39225-2030

Economic Development
Advisory Council

December 12, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Broadband Access for Small Businesses

Mr. Chairman:

The small businesses that do not have access to the internet are foregoing advantageous marketing opportunities. The Internet is a maze and it is easy to stumble across one thing while looking for another. I have found many great things by accident, when searching the Internet. Additionally, these small businesses are not able to participate fully in the world of e-commerce.

As a duly elected state senator from Mississippi it is important for your members to understand the significance of eliminating the monthly cost to so many through the opportunity afforded by a free broadband program. The Internet offers unparalleled resources for businesses. For small businesses, these resources have barely been tapped. Currently, only 35% of small businesses have websites. Websites allow businesses to reach the global market; no other medium has this potential and without any cost; it would be phenomenal.

Because they lack do not have access to the internet, they are missing opportunities to make money. The less money these business owners make, the less money they will have to pump into the American economy. It is a vicious cycle that is doomed to repeat itself unless we do something to stop it. You have a proposal in front of you for fast free internet. This is exactly what the small business owners of America need.

Small businesses account for nearly all of the businesses that operate in America. Due to a lack of broadband internet access, they are suffering and so is the American economy. When deliberating on the vitally important decision, please consider the burden the economy will suffer if our small businesses continue to operate without tapping their market potential. Fast, free internet is the smart solution.

Sincerely,

Senator John Horhn
Senate District 26 Mississippi

CC: Commissioner Copps*
Commissioner Adelstein*
Commissioner Tate*
Commissioner McDowell*
FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch*
Kathy Seidel, Acting Chief, Wireless Bureau*
Representative Pickering
Senator Lott
Senator Cochran